

Economy and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2024 at 6:00PM

Meeting Venue: Council Chamber at the Council House, Lichfield Street, Walsall

[Livestream Link](#)

Membership:

Councillor M Follows (Chair)
Councillor B Allen (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Bott
Councillor S Cheema
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor P Gill
Councillor F Hassan
Councillor P Kaur
Councillor R Larden
Councillor M Ward
Councillor J Whitehouse

Portfolio Holder(s):

Councillor A. Andrew – Deputy Leader and Regeneration
Councillor G. Perry – Deputy Leader and Resilient Communities
Councillor K. Murphy – Street Pride
Councillor M. Statham – Education and Skills
Councillor G. Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

Quorum:

4 Members

The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012
Specified pecuniary interests

The pecuniary interests which are specified for the purposes of Chapter 7 of Part 1 of the Localism Act 2011 are the interests specified in the second column of the following:

| Subject | Prescribed description |
|---|---|
| Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation | Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain. |
| Sponsorship | <p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by a member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of a member.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Regulations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p> |
| Contracts | <p>Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority:</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p> |
| Land | Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority. |
| Licences | Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer. |
| Corporate tenancies | <p>Any tenancy where (to a member's knowledge):</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority;</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p> |
| Securities | <p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where:</p> <p>(a) that body (to a member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either:</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="715 91 1406 203">(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or<li data-bbox="715 237 1406 483">(ii) if the share capital of that body is more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class. |
|--|--|

Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended)

Access to information: Exempt information

Part 1

Descriptions of exempt information: England

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes:
 - (a) to give any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) to make an order or direction under any enactment.
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.
8. Information being disclosed during a meeting of a Scrutiny and Performance Panel when considering flood risk management functions which:
 - (a) Constitutes a trades secret;
 - (b) Its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the risk management authority);
 - (c) It was obtained by a risk management authority from any other person and its disclosure to the public by the risk management authority would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that other person.

- 1. Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence from Members of the Committee.
- 2. Substitutions**
To receive notice of any substitutions for a Member of the Committee for the duration of the meeting.
- 3. Minutes**
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024.
- 4. Declarations of Interest and party whip**
To receive declarations of interest or the party whip from Members in respect of items on the agenda.
- 5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985 (as amended):**
To agree that the public be excluded from the private session during consideration of the agenda items indicated for the reasons shown on the agenda.
- 6. Litter Volunteering – Progress Update**
To provide an overview of the Council’s litter picking programme and use of volunteers.
(Pages 12 -26)
- 7. Grass Cutting Schedule and mapping of Council Assets**
To receive an update on the Council’s grass cutting schedule and mapping of assets.
(Pages 27 - 38)
- 8. Fly Tipping Enforcement and Activity**
To inform the Committee of the Council’s Enforcement practices in respect of prevention and detection of fly tipping amongst other aspects.
(Pages 39 - 46)
- 9. Areas of focus – 2023/24**
To consider the areas of focus for the Committee for the remainder of the municipal year.
(Pages 47 - 48)
- 10. Forward Plans**
To receive the latest Forward Plans in respect of the following:
 - Executive Forward Plans.
 - Black Country Joint Executive Committee.
 - West Midlands Combined Authority Board.*(Pages 49 – 65)*
- 11. Recommendations Tracker**
To consider progress on recommendations from the previous meeting.
(Pages 66 -69)
- 12. Date of next meeting**
To note the date of the next meeting will be 11 April 2024.

Minutes of the Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at Walsall Council House

Tuesday, 16 January 2024 at 6.00p.m.

Committee Members present: Councillor M Follows (Chair)
Councillor P Bott
Councillor S Cheema
Councillor P Gill
Councillor A Hicken
Councillor P Kaur
Councillor R Larden
Councillor M Ward
Councillor J Whitehouse

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Bird – Leader of the Council
Councillor Perry – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities
Councillor G Flint – Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

Officers Present: Dave Brown – Executive of Director, Economy, Environment and Communities
David Elrington – Head of Community Safety and Enforcement
Philippa Venables – Director of Regeneration and Economy
Benjamin Parker – Heritage Programme Officer
Pat Fleming – Climate Change Manager
Matt Powis – Senior Democratic Services Officer

40. Apologies

An apology was received from Councillor Allen (Vice-Chair).

41. Substitutions

There were no substitutions.

42. Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest or party whip.

43. **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items to consider in private session.

44. **Minutes**

A copy of the Minutes of the meeting held on the 23 November 2023 was submitted. [annexed]

Resolved

That, the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2023, copies having previously been circulated, be approved as a true and accurate record.

45. **Heritage Strategy – Reference to Highgate Brewery**

The Committee received an overview of the Council's Heritage Strategy by the Portfolio Holder for Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces. [annexed]

The strategy was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund with the aim of creating opportunities for celebrating past, present and future generations by identifying heritage assets in consultation with public, private and third sector partners within the Borough. In addition, there was a significant challenge to identify challenging heritage assets, which had fallen into a state of disrepair or neglect to secure a long-term future. One notable example was Highgate Brewery.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- There was a consensus that heritage assets were often overlooked across the building landscape in the Borough. The Committee welcomed continued dialogue with owners of heritage assets to secure long-term funding options.
- The Leader of the Council highlighted that Highgate Brewery was an example of the Borough's unique heritage, which must be preserved. There was a view that the Brewery could be transformed into a centre of excellence.
- The Council secured the Guildhall for future generations as part of the Council's masterplan.
- A Member sought clarification on the future of Darlaston Recreation Centre and requested a briefing paper. In response, the Portfolio Holder

confirmed that £20m of government funding had been received for Darlaston.

- A Member highlighted that the Council needed to work with communities to identify suitable cultural and historical assets for future preservation. There was a view that Highgate Brewery could be transformed into a purposed live music and entertainment venue.
- There was a discussion on the future of Walsall Leather Museum as there was a view that the location of the site was unsuitable for the long-term vision of the town centre.
- The Council was working with the Canal and Rivers Trust to reimagine and utilise the canal network effectively. Funding had been allocated to refresh local canal towpaths.
- The Council had embarked on various engagements activities as part of the early consultation of the strategy such as the heritage forum.
- Historical assets were vital for local communities. It was suggested that local pop-up events in communities would enable local people to get involved and contribute to the strategy.

Councillor Kaur joined the meeting at this point at 6:09p.m.

Resolved:

That, the Council's Heritage Strategy for 2021 – 2026 be noted.

46. Climate Change Update

The Portfolio Holders for Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces and Street Pride presented an update on the Council's commitment become a net-zero Borough by 2041 in respect of Climate Change. [annexed]

In September 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency with a target to become a net-zero authority by 2050 in line with the UK Government's 2050 approach. In addition, there was a commitment to work with all relevant partners and stakeholders to make the whole Borough a net-zero in line with the regional target agreed by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

Following an initial review of the Council's strategy, an action plan was developed which noted that the Borough's largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions were carbon dioxide from domestic sources and fossil fuel powered vehicles. It was highlighted that meeting the net-zero 2041 goal would be challenging.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- There was no suggestion that Walsall was developing a low-emission zone for the Borough like other national cities.

- The Council was considering different technologies in respect of fleet vehicles such as electric and hydrogen. However, there was a requirement to assess both the long-term cost of vehicle servicing and technical ability of some fleet vehicles such as waste lorries.
- The Borough continued to have good recycling rates, however, overall contamination of refuse remained high. There was a target within the waste strategy of recycling 65% of collected material.
- Green job opportunities were a priority as part of the devolution deal.
- There was a view that hydrogen buses would be used more in future. However, the manufacturing of hydrogen cells and refuelling of buses remained an issue.
- There were concerns about the displacement of older buses into Walsall due to the rollout of cleaner vehicles in Birmingham.
- Compost bins were available to purchase from the Council's website via a third-party supplier.
- The Leader of the Council confirmed that the Council was exploring proposals to turn food waste into energy or fertiliser. There was a discussion on the use and role of biochar.
- The Council was committed to sharing knowledge and resources about solar panel installations to education establishments to aid effective decision-making.

Resolved:

That, the Climate Change action plan be noted.

47. Off-Road Vehicles – Update

The Portfolio Holder for Resilient Communities gave an overview of the work carried out by the Council and partners to reduce the number of incidents involving off-road vehicles.

In November 2022, Operation Adhesion was launched with aim of gathering evidence, identifying offenders and formulate an effective approach to deterring future anti-social behaviour with off-road vehicles. Targeted days were carried out with police neighbourhood teams, police drone, community protection and healthy spaces staff to ascertain locations for off-road vehicles. Using drone technology, both the Council and partners were able to locate and apprehend vehicle riders.

Since Operation Adhesion, it was noted that the Council continued to engage with partners to reduce the number of off-road bikes in the area as majority of incidences were linked to criminal activity.

A question and answer session took place and following on, the principal points from the ensuing discussion:

- Leaflets were distributed to noticeboards across the Borough on the issues relating to off-road bikes to increase awareness in communities.

- Young people were most likely to face convictions relating to off-road vehicles offences.
- In order to protect greenspaces against off-road vehicles, there was a need combine physical measures and intelligence data when carrying out enforcement activity.
- The Council was committed to closing gaps and implementing preventative measures on greenspaces across the Borough.
- The number of convictions in respect of off-road vehicles would be circulated to the Committee in writing.
- The Council had prepared literature to raise awareness of the dangers of off-road vehicles including the legal ramifications of using such vehicles. In this respect, it was agreed that an example of the literature would be circulated to the Committee in writing.
- Individuals caught using off-road vehicles were usually charged with driving without insurance. However, there were a broad range of options depending on the circumstances of the case. For example, social care involvement would be available in the case of a young person.
- A Member sought clarification on the involvement of the Probation Service in regard to litter picking. In this respect, it was agreed that a response would be provided in writing.
- There was a commitment for more to be done to promote legal facilities for off-road vehicles and educate young people on the dangers of the activity.

Resolved

That, the Council's response to off-road vehicles be noted.

48. Areas of focus – 2023/24

The Committee noted the proposed areas of focus for the remaining meetings of the municipal year. [annexed]

Resolved

That, forward plans be noted.

49. Recommendations Tracker

The Senior Democratic Services Officer updated Members on the recommendations from previous meetings of the Committee. [annexed]

Resolved:

That the progress on recommendations from the previous meeting be noted.

50. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for 27 February 2024.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 7.31p.m

Signed:

Date:

27 February 2024

Litter Volunteering – Progress Update

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Street Pride
Wellbeing Leisure and Public Spaces
Resilient Communities

1. Aim

1.1. The volunteer litter programme supports and enables local people to help keep the streets and open spaces across Walsall free from litter and local businesses to keep the street outside of their business clean, through this work the programme aims to:

- build community and enhance wellbeing,
- develop civic pride, and
- improve the environment.

2. Recommendations

2.1. Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the progress to date and provide feedback on the future focus of the litter volunteering support programme, confirming that this is still an area of priority for Walsall Council and to support the ongoing work being carried out by the council, local businesses, and the valuable work carried out by individual volunteers throughout Walsall.

3. Report detail – know

Introduction

3.1. From July 2018 to June 2019, street cleansing collected 2,147 tonnes of waste through a combination of litter picking, fly-tipping removal and street bin waste collection. Keeping Walsall clean and litter free costs taxpayers approximately £1.5 million per year. In July 2019, two volunteer coordinators were recruited, and Walsall Community Litter Watch (WCLW) was created in August 2019 by the coordinators to help support the council in addressing the litter problem within the borough.

Progress during 2023

3.2. There were some significant staff changes at the start of 2023 which impacted upon the WCLW programme. The project was and is managed within the healthy spaces team and required other staff members within the team to

support the project, providing administration support and deliveries of equipment and social media updates.

- 3.3. A new reporting portal was introduced which required officers to provide a lot of support to volunteers, and work with the portal developers to make some improvements. A new litter coordinator was recruited in April 2023, and the service has continued to flourish as details in the information to follow.

Environmental impact

- 3.4. WCLW directly contributes to a cleaner and healthier environment. Removing litter from public spaces helps prevent pollution, protects wildlife, and supports maintaining the overall ecological balance.
- 3.5. Table 1 below provides detailed litter data including the social return on investment. This level of support provides a big saving to the council and has been substantial over the last two years.

Table 1 - Litter collection

| | | |
|-------------|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2022 | Social Return on Investment | £64,664 |
| | Bags collected | 14,632 |
| | Volunteer hours | 7,130 |
| 2023 | Social Return on Investment | £66,113 |
| | Bags collected | 11,551 |
| | Volunteer hours | 6,288 |

- 3.6. The data does show a reduction in bags collected and volunteer hours. this has been a trend in recent years and could be down to several factors, such as volunteers having other priorities such as caring responsibilities (for adults or children), returning to employment, no longer being capable (a significant number of volunteers have been lost since COVID), etc.

Community wellbeing

- 3.7. Participating with WCLW fosters a sense of community pride and ownership. A clean and well-maintained Walsall contributes to the well-being of residents, creating a more pleasant and attractive community. Officers have continued to support Walsall Wombles, which is the overarching group supporting all the Walsall community litter groups. The priority in 2024 is to support the group to become more independent, which will include electing a new chair, treasurer and secretary. Arrangements have been made to visit Birmingham Green Spaces Forum, which has a similar overarching role supporting its members.

Educational opportunities

- 3.8. WCLW delivers educational opportunities to raise awareness about the impact of littering in Walsall and on the environment. Coordinators have been engaging with community, schools, and local organisations to promote responsible waste disposal.

3.9. The team has worked closely with Walsall College, achieving the following engagement:

- Four class-based sessions with Level 3 and Level 2 students (including an introduction into the impact of litter, barriers and benefits of litter picking, health and safety).
- One litter picking session (with four more to follow).
- Approximately 70 students involved.
- Abu Bakr Boys' School – two sessions, informing how litter picking sessions are valuable activities that contribute to keeping the surroundings clean and raising awareness about the importance of proper waste disposal.

ACT (A Cleaner Tomorrow) initiative

3.10. The ACT initiative is a school-based programme that has been developed to educate young people in how to take care of our environment for future generations. It teaches pupils what litter is, what happens to it in the environment, how to recycle and gives them an opportunity to teach others.

3.11. Each lesson has national curriculum or 'development matters' links. Taking part in ACT also support schools interested in becoming an eco-school, as it provides a base for the litter topic. Even if the school is not working on the litter topic, eco-school assessors like to see litter free school sites.

3.12. The project also supports Ofsted inspections, as assessors also comment on the amount of litter on the site as it is considered as a sign of pupils' respect for their learning environment. A school's approach to litter can contribute towards its inspection ratings in personal development, behaviours, and welfare.

3.13. Three ACT session have been delivered as part of the healthy spaces team's Holiday and Food (HAF) school holiday delivery. Further sessions have been delivered at the following schools:

- Four at St Joseph's Primary
- Two at Blakenall Junior School
- One at County Bridge Primary School
- One Brownies session
- Two at All Saints International Academy School
- Four at Brownhills West Primary School

Preservation of heritage sites

3.14. Heritage litter picks are particularly important for helping to preserve historical and cultural landmarks. Keeping these sites clean helps maintain their integrity and is crucial for preserving their value and beauty, ensuring they can be

enjoyed by current and future generations. Four heritage picks have taken place over the last 12 months at the following sites:

- Bloxwich Park Memorial Clock
- Arboretum Visitors Centre
- Barr Beacon War Memorial
- Moorcroft Environmental Centre

Promotion of civic pride

- 3.15. WCLW clean-ups engender a sense of civic pride and responsibility. It instils the idea that everyone has a role to play in maintaining the cleanliness of public spaces, creating a stronger and more connected community in Walsall.
- 3.16. Litter stations have been developed across the borough. A litter picking station is a base that loans out litter picking kit for free. The equipment stored at these locations includes litter pickers, hi-visibility vests and waste bags. Libraries involved in the pilot include Brownhills, Aldridge, Bloxwich, Streetly, Willenhall and Darlaston, as well as the Stan Ball Centre and Reedswood Sons of Rest.
- 3.17. WCLW volunteers were part of the inaugural Walsall Council Volunteer Recognition Awards – Pride in our Patch, which recognised the contribution volunteers make to our parks and greenspaces. It is vital that their work is recognised, acknowledged, and celebrated.

Key points:

- Litter picking equipment is provided as a short-term loan, to be returned straight after the litter pick. Anyone wishing to borrow the equipment for longer is encouraged by library staff to sign up as a litter picking volunteer. Library staff support them to fill in the registration form online if needed.
- Bags and stickers are distributed to existing volunteers when requested.
- Library staff advise the customers about how to report the bags for collection and provide support around accessing the reporting portal.

Positive social impact

- 3.18. With support from council officers, SpaceHive funding was awarded to Walsall Wombles to help the project to continue conducting community litter picks across Walsall. The grant helped WCLW to provide equipment, litter picking community events and funded school visits. Additionally, training sessions were provided to volunteers including ‘sharps’ (needle) collection, first aid, and #LitterHero Ambassador (Keep Britain Tidy) programme.
- 3.19. There are more than 1,000 volunteers registered with the scheme, approximately 450+ of whom actively volunteer. In 2023, WCLW recruited 116

new volunteers to support the project, many of whom were social litter pickers meaning they only attended a single one-off event, e.g. a corporate or community litter pick.

- 3.20. Walsall drafted a litter charter which businesses were encouraged to sign up to. Through signing up, businesses agreed to a variety of potential actions which could be as simple as putting up posters in windows to discourage customers from littering, storing waste correctly and keeping their premises and surrounding area clean. The programme was launched in 2022 and 75 businesses expressed an interest. A new push on promotion of the charter will take place in 2024.
- 3.21. Working in partnership with others is critical to the success of WCLW. Numerous partner organisations have become community ambassadors of the programme. In 2023, officers have worked closely with several 'Friends of groups, Walsall College, Sainsbury's, TK Maxx, A.F. Blakemore & Sons Ltd, Wiggle Ltd, Barhale Ltd, Poundland, Mossley Big Local, Darlaston All Active, whg - Neighbourhood Services Team and Asda Darlaston.
- 3.22. Keep Britain Tidy (KBT) is a leading independent environmental charity that works to inspire, educate, and enable everyone in this country to value the environment on their doorstep. Working relationships have been developed with KBT and Walsall regularly has representation at its annual conference and takes part in the Great British Spring Clean. Walsall has also taken advantage of support offered by KBT relating to graffiti removal, dealing with smoking litter and chewing gum reduction.

Future proposals

- 3.23. The WCLW Action Plan 2024 is provided at **Appendix A** of this report. Key work includes:
 - Working with Street Scene Operations to identify and target hotspots.
 - Relaunch the litter charter with local businesses.
 - Developing partnerships, which will include Housing Associations, Walsall Football Club and the Canal and River Trust.
 - Roll out of the newly developed secondary school programme.

Conclusion

- 3.24. Walsall Community Litter Watch involves educating future generations, and supporting individuals, communities, and businesses to help keep Walsall streets and open spaces clean and free from litter. The volunteering aspect reduces the pressure on council budgets, enabling these limited resources to be used elsewhere.
- 3.25. For the volunteers, the act of volunteering is good for their mental wellbeing, through the achievement of cleaning an area, the feeling of giving back to their

local community and for some, meeting new people with likeminded values. Additionally, it is also excellent for physical health, with many miles being walked.

- 3.26. There are numerous ways in which the public of Walsall support the council, but the act becoming a litter volunteer is one of the most valued by the services and communities it supports.

4. Financial information

- 4.1. Litter volunteer and business support work is delivered within existing resources, or through the sourcing of external funding.

5. Reducing inequalities

- 5.1. Any member of the community who can assist as a litter volunteer will be supported to do so. Equipment and training are provided, as is any required ongoing support.

6. Decide

- 6.1. The committee is asked to note the current focus of the Walsall Community Litter Watch programme identified in the 2024 action plan.

7. Respond

- 7.1. Any recommendations made by the committee will be considered and added into the work plan if it is achievable within the existing resources.

8. Review

- 8.1. The future litter volunteering work plan will be monitored by the healthy spaces team managers and updates will be provided to the Street Pride, and Wellbeing Leisure and Public Spaces Portfolio Holders.

9. Background papers

- 9.1. None

Appendices

Appendix A – WCLW Action Plan 2024

Author

Richard McVittie

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Healthy Spaces and Environment Walsall Community Litter Watch – Action Plan 2024

| Area | Actions | Details | Timescales |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ongoing | Databases | Make sure all data bases are up to date <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initial sign up - Ward data bases - Equipment logs Scan and store all documents (if required) | Continuous throughout the year |
| | Volunteer support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amend - Guidance and risk assessment as and when required - Monitor Facebook - Provide equipment | Continuous throughout the year |
| | Monitoring Produce graphs | To show monthly/yearly figures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer Hours - Number of bags collected - Bag rate - Return on Investment | Continuous throughout the year |
| | Organise and attend litter picks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organise litter picks for the community - Run the events - Attend community picks to support | Continuous throughout the year |
| Litter Picking Stations | Re-connect / launch existing stations | Make contact with the following venues to refresh them on what a litter picking station is and what is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aldridge Library - Bloxwich Library - Streetly Library - Brownhills Library - Willenhall Library - Darlaston Library - Stan Ball Centre | March 24 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| | | Darlaston Town Hall Media campaign around library displays Litter partners | |
| | Reconnect with | - Manor farm Community Association - Brownhills Community Association Pelsall Village Centre | April 24 |
| | Create and launch new Litter Picking Stations | Make contact with new potential venues. Arrange meetings to give overview and explain procedure. Potential venues include: - NASHDOM - Caldmore Community Garden/Aiina hub - Palfrey Park (big local) - Birchills Agenda 21 – Sons of Rest Building Frank F Harrison Community Association Litter stations more focused – have equipment but also run 1 pick a month for example | Spring 24 |
| | Leisure centre litter station | - Oak Park Leisure centre - Bloxwich Leisure Centre - Darlaston leisure centre - Gala centre Leisure incentive – 5 picks = one free family swim or something? | Summer 24 |
| | Press Release | To re-launch the initiative | Summer 24 – programme in Comms meeting |
| Litter Charter | Roll out of charter | Aldridge done / delivered Darlaston signed / Delivered Bloxwich ½ signed / delivered Willenhall signed / delivered | Ongoing |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|---|
| | | <p>Pelsall signed / delivered Brownhills signed / delivered</p> <p>Check in with Litter Charter businesses – how is it working, support.</p> <p>To do – Tracking (Tom Evans) To do more – Pleck, Walsall Wood</p> <p>Increase amount of business involvement</p> | <p>More work to be done in areas</p> <p>Taken place and will help support development.</p> <p>April 24</p> <p>Ongoing – more work to be done 2024</p> |
| | Roll of honour | <p>Organise a roll of honour on the website</p> <p>Check in with Web Team</p> | Spring 2024 |
| Businesses | CSR Activities & Opportunities | Press release to promote opportunities, use McDonalds as example of what businesses are doing. | May 24 |
| | | Share litter picking events to join up businesses with local businesses event. | May 24 |
| Walsall Wombles | Insurance | Covered through funding | Covered for 2024 |
| | Bank account | Look into changing bank accounts | March 24 |
| | Revitalize group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reset up committee - Arrange at next meeting 12-16 Feb AGM - 5-9 Feb meet bgsf <p>Meetings quarterly</p> | March 24 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Youth Section | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discuss how best to engage - Possibly 2024 summer? | September 24 |
| Community Litter Picking | Litter Picker Leader training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule events - Deliver sessions (2 per half a year) | Events to be scheduled |
| | First Aid Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule events – organise with H&S Officer | January 24 |
| | Sharps Awareness Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schedule events – organise with H&S Officer | January 24 |
| | Timetable of events | Created Jan-June 2024 and share on social media | Completed |
| | Creation of new groups | <p>Areas to target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Blakenall - Leamore - Pelsall (Pelsall pixies) - Moxley - Birchills - Palfrey/Caldmore - Rushall - Places of Welcome | Spring 24/ Ongoing |
| New Campaigns | Pick n Mix | <p>Events with litter picks and socials attached 2024 – Plan to deliver 4 sessions Link to supermarket champions</p> | Started with more to come later in year |
| | Keep Britain Tidy – Great British Spring Clean | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBSC meeting – usually Jan - Proffit Street - multiple day intervention - East – awareness litter picks - Planning jan/feb - Attend KBT briefing - Call to arms for local Cllrs and MPs | March 24 |
| | Walsall Football Club | KBT litter pick with tickets | March 24 |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| 150 years of Walsall arboretum | Plan events for this | May 24 |
| Bonfires | Bonfires planning for litter picking = ticket to event | November 24 |
| Smoking Zones | Carry out intervention monitoring for 3 weeks from w/c 8 th January to the end of w/c 22 nd January, continuation of the project depending on the trial evaluation | February 24 |
| Football Clubs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar to Litter Charter – working with Healthy Spaces - Meet with clubs - Follow up with local leagues | Ongoing |
| Police | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Junior Police Cadets to do a litter pick - Locality meetings | Needs pick up later in the year |
| Community Payback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with community payback to create litter picking and improvement opportunities in Walsall | Meeting taking place February 24 |
| Walsall 2040 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans for supporting the work Walsall 2040 | Ongoing |
| Tri It | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with the Tri It events raising awareness about litter in North, South, East and West localities | Summer 24 |
| Corporate social responsibility Walsall Council picks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrange a town centre event to test this out | Ongoing |
| Fostering support picks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible litter picking events to help support rest bite for foster parents and their wards | Approach to made to organisations |
| Plogging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Track attendance - Smaller bags to be sources to allow to pick and run - Organise next set of events | Trialed in 2023 with limited success/ explore for 2024 |

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| | Canal & River Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did GBSC event in partnership looking to do minimum 4 events - Bell boat picks - Paddle board picks | March 24 |
| | Magnet Fishing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liase with Ray Ebanks - 2024 | Successful activity in 2023 look to replicate 2024 |
| | Adopt a street | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible funded project – to be explored - A litter picking initiative which would encourage volunteers to adopt their street or local area. - Sign like the neighbourhood watch sign, this road is adopted by a local litter picking, please help by taking your litter home. Print and design. - Discuss with website team about building a map that we can highlight roads that have been adopted. | Investigations to be done into funding opportunities to support this |
| | Roadshow (intervention days) | <p>Intervention days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Targeting the areas with poor recycling rates/no volunteer presence/high Flytipping and littering issues - Spend a morning/day educating people in the area <p>Ideas for the roadshow include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appearance from Captain Reek ▪ Recycling and littering games from our education programme ▪ Inviting other teams/companies/volunteer groups to show what they are about ▪ Events such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet the vehicles - Sweeper / Bin lorry Recycling talk Volunteer talk ▪ Litter pick | Spring/ Summer 24 |

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| | Awareness Ideas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myth buster quiz - Litter lotto - Celebrating flash mob - Captain reek and games at fairs - Market stall – pick of the day - Voting bin - Bubble bin - | Throughout the year |
| | Public Perception Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft out questionnaire from a litter perspective - Ask officers if they wish to include any questions - Develop the questionnaire - Complete all necessary paperwork | Spring 24 |
| | It's your Neighbourhood | https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/its-your-neighbourhood | More investigation needed into this |
| | Signage for coming in and out of Walsall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design a draft for signage thanking people for taking their rubbish home at all entrances for Walsall. - Show to management – highways to gain momentum for the project | Rebranding is being explored by Comms and this could be included in this. Meetings to take place early in New Year |
| Education | Primary Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Push for February - Send out leaflets via mail room in December/ January - Head Teacher newsletter Teacher training powerpoint | February 2024 |
| | Secondary Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create an education programme for secondary schools | Spring Term |

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| | Play schemes Childrens clubs Library sessions HAF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create a Childrens club plan - Create a Childrens club resource box | HAF – Easter and Summer |
| | Group talks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote our support where we can. - Womens groups, neigh bough hood watch ect | Ongoing |
| | Further Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approach Walsall College and University of Wolverhampton to introduce litter workshops for their students - Run litter picks with students <p>Work with Wolverhampton University on statistics data project</p> | January 24 – ongoing |
| | Duke of Edinburgh Award | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - P&D leaflet - Promote support to secondary school - Fill in DofE forms when requested | March 24 |
| | Keep Britain Tidy comp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan in Jan/Feb 2024 | February 24 |
| P&D | Events displays | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roller banner - Leaflet holders - P&D Tablecloth - New picture stand - New table - Print out quality pictures for events - Create a PowerPoint slideshow of volunteer pictures | Ongoing |
| | Trailer | <p>Look at designing other iterations of the trailer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School iteration - Recycling Iteration - Rubbish converter | 2024/25 |
| | Service leaflet: | <p>Service leaflet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to volunteer - Recycling | Ongoing work to keep updated 2024 |

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|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulky collections - HWRC - How to apply for bigger bin <p>HST leaflet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leaflet of all the activities and education sessions available to be able to hand out to schools to promote other activities | |
| Strategies | Dog fouling strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dog fouling strategy - Dog fouling stencils | 2025 |
| | Litter strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue work on litter strategy - Identify other sectors that may need to input | 2025 |

Economy & Environment Scrutiny Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27 February 2024

Grass Cutting Schedule and mapping of Council Assets

Portfolio: Councillor Murphy – Portfolio Holder: Street Pride

Related portfolios: Cllr Flint – Portfolio Holder: Wellbeing, Leisure and Public Spaces

Service: Highways, Transport and Operations – Place and Environment

Wards: All

1. Aim

1.1. Grassed areas and open green spaces have a positive impact on wellbeing, connect communities to nature and, support carbon reduction.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The committee is asked to note the work being carried out to create grass cutting schedules that deliver a clean, green and vibrant borough that supports biodiversity and managed habitat preservation.

3. Report detail – know

Background

3.1. Our residents have told us that they recognise that their surrounding environment and access to green space is an important factor for their wellbeing.

3.2. Access to nature and green space alleviates stress, stabilises blood pressure and eases anxiety and depression. Green space also makes exercise more appealing and provides opportunity for healthy, active lifestyles. Grass verges and green spaces intercept rainwater and help to combat surface water flooding, reducing runoff by up to 99% compared to a paved surface.

3.3. In January 2023, the government published the Environmental Improvement Plan which set out plans for significantly improving the natural environment. The government has committed to halt the decline in species abundance by 2030, increase species abundance by at least 10% between 2030 and 2043 and restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife rich habitats.

3.4. Guidance for public authorities notes that small changes to how areas such as roadside verges are managed can create habitats for wildlife and ‘nature corridors’ that connect existing habitats. This allows species to move between habitats, maintain or increase populations and be more resilient to climate change.

- 3.5. Mowing grassed areas less frequently presents an opportunity to encourage biodiversity. The grasses will set seed, wildflowers already in grassed areas will grab their opportunity to bloom, and the longer stems will create a sheltered microclimate.
- 3.6. Cutting grassed areas at the end of summer allows the areas to flourish, ensures flowers have set seed before cutting, and allows seed to fall onto bare ground for the following year. This ensures intervention to keep areas under control and areas are managed for the following season.
- 3.7. The borough already has some positive examples of rewilding on Nest Common and Walsall airport, where areas have been left unmown and species such as Orchids have started to flourish.

The Current maintenance regime

- 3.8. Current grass maintenance is primarily a three to five weekly cut from late March through to early October. Grass cutting takes place on a cyclic basis with teams visiting all grassed areas in a single ward before moving on to the next. If weather conditions mean that the grass has grown significantly between cuts, the process of cutting the grass can take considerably longer.
- 3.9. Operatives use a range of machines including ride on mowers, strimmers and pedestrian mowers. Grass is not routinely collected and is instead left to reside where it falls. Whilst generally this is an accepted practice and maintains lawn/grass areas in a tidy condition, it adds little value to wildlife, habits, pollinators, and microclimates.

Rationale for creating long grass areas (rewilding):

- 3.10. There are several opportunities where rewilding can prove to be beneficial:
 - Rewilding of areas adjacent to hedges, woodland and other existing ecological corridors maximises the benefit to wildlife.
 - Limited cutting of grass areas that contain trees increases the benefit to wildlife and reduces the time spent mowing around objects.
 - Areas that already contain a higher number of wildflower species are important for biodiversity and regular cutting may prevent them from flowering and setting seed.
 - Larger residential verges, slope and banks have low service value (e.g. are not used for children's play) but offer opportunities to increase biodiversity without reducing the availability of quality amenity space.
- 3.11. It's important to note that the success of rewilding initiatives depends on various factors, including proper planning, community involvement, and adaptive

management strategies. Additionally, the specific benefits may vary based on the characteristics of the grasslands and the broader ecological context.

3.12. Factors considered when reviewing the grass cutting regime include the following:

- Mowing desire paths through long grass for access, egress and dog walking
- Adding small wildlife signs in each long grass area (referencing pollinators)
- Keeping a strip along paths and roads mown regularly, giving consideration to sight lines, safety etc.
- Providing customer exchange centre agents and operatives with leaflets explaining the regimes so they could hand them out to the public if they get enquiries.
- Updated webpages explaining the approach being taken.
- Promotion of good news stories on social media and via press releases.

3.13. Finally, bringing operational frontline staff on board and re-training in wildlife friendly maintenance regimes will also assist successful implementation.

Communication & Consultation

3.14. In 2023/24, providing customers with a clear explanation of the grass cutting regime contributed to a significant reduction in complaint escalations.

3.15. Information boards, such as those pictured below, will help to raise awareness of the rationale behind the approach to service delivery. Additionally, smaller signage incorporating QR codes that link to council web pages will provide similar narrative for more compact sites.



4. Financial information

- 4.1. Grass cutting is a revenue funded service. The 2024/25 grass cutting schedule will deliver the following efficiencies.

| Activity | Saving |
|---|----------------|
| Staff reduction Delete vacancy - STPR001200 (Grade 5) Reduction of one FTE post | £35,155 |
| Reduction in fleet assets Reduce 1 tractor (FJ09 NGP) | £3,000 |
| Reduction in follow up work e.g. strimming, pedestrian mowing, herbicide control Reduction in agency budget | £11,845 |
| Total efficiency | £50,000 |

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1. Providing access to nature and biodiversity mitigates inequalities by fostering inclusive well-being. Green spaces offer equal opportunities for recreation, promoting physical and mental health for all communities and socio-economic groups.

6. Decide

- 6.1. The committee is asked to note the work being carried out in respect to rewilding and grass cutting and provide their feedback on the approach being taken.

7. Respond

- 7.1. Grass cutting schedules will be implemented from late March 2024.

8. Review

- 8.1. Elected members will be invited to provide feedback on the 2024 grass cutting service in the autumn. Comments received from councillors and members of the public will be used to inform the approach taken in the following year.

9. Appendices

- 9.1. Appendix A: 2024 Grass Cutting Programme

10. Background Papers

- 10.1. None arising from this report.

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Appendix A

2024 Grass Cutting Programme

Grass cutting plans for adjustment to specific locations for 2024 season onwards are detailed in the tables below. The majority of the sites selected have been allocated for rewilding, heathland and tree planting.

| Ward No. | Ward | Location | Total before reduction | Total after reduction | Reduction area m2 | % reduction of cut area | Specification for unmown area | Rationale | Current schedule | Specification for areas mown |
|----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Brownhills | Whitehorse Road Open space | 9977 | 4267 | 5710 | 57 | Flail collect annually (October) | Potential for heathland restoration | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area cut and maintained in line with district schedule |
| 1 | Brownhills | Cherwell drive | 5259 | 1430 | 3829 | 74 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Recreational area and pathways in line with district schedule |
| 2 | Pelsall | Moat farm pool - Lichfield Rd | 2600 | 1090 | 1510 | 58 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Pathways and highway boundary only |
| 2 | Pelsall | Moat farm way - play area | 640 | 240 | 400 | 62 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Recreational area in line with district schedule |
| 2 | Pelsall | Ryders Hayes open space | 2320 | 970 | 1350 | 58 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Recreational area and play area maintained in line with district schedule |
| 3 | Aldridge North and Walsall wood | Vigo common | 13906 | 3646 | 10260 | 74 | Flail annually (October) divide into two sections and alternate each year | Long grass for birds of prey | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area cut and muga maintained in line with district schedule |
| 3 | Aldridge North and Walsall wood | Rusty men o/s Brook lane open space | 4442 | 380 | 4062 | 91 | Flail collect annually (October) | To allow a balanced ecosystem to thrive and not allow plants to dominate the natural balance | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathways only inline with district schedule |

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|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 3 | Aldridge North and Walsall wood | Greenwood Road P/A | 12664 | 2145 | 10519 | 83 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area and boundary cut in line with district schedule |
| 3 | Aldridge North and Walsall wood | Lindon Road | 1560 | 240 | 1320 | 84 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Perimeter cut only n line with district schedule |
| 3 | Aldridge North and Walsall wood | Druids Walk | 4270 | 3640 | 630 | 15 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Play area and recreational area in line with district schedule |
| 4 | Sheffield and Rushall | Grange Crescent Open space | 17194 | 6939 | 10255 | 59 | No cut | Accept natural tree regeneration form adjacent woodland | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 4 | Sheffield and Rushall | The Parkway & Brookmeadow Open Space | 30000 | 25595 | 4405 | 15 | Flail collect annually (October) | Possible wildflower area | 2 to 3 weeks | Centre stip cut in line with District schedule |
| 4 | Sheffield and Rushall | Radleys play area | 7370 | 2625 | 4745 | 64 | Flail annually (October) | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area cut and pathways maintained |
| 4 | Sheffield and Rushall | Westgate P/A | 7500 | 3800 | 3700 | 49 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area and recreational area cut in line with District schedule |
| 4 | Sheffield and Rushall | Stubbers Green/ Barnes Lane | 10000 | 600 | 9400 | 94 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Highway boundary line only |
| 5 | Aldridge Central and South | Sunny Bank Quarry | 8167 | 5217 | 2950 | 39 | Flail annually (October) | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area park area cut in line with District schedule |
| 5 | Aldridge Central and South | Redhouse play area | 5450 | 3000 | 2450 | 45 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Recreational area, paths and play area maintained in line with district schedule |
| 6 | Streetly | Hundred acre wood/ Goodwood Park | 5300 | 3320 | 1980 | 37 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Play area and recreational area in line with district schedule |
| 7 | Pheasey | Moreton avenue - Open space | 1900 | 750 | 1150 | 60 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Boundary, pathways and recreational area in line with district schedule |

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|----|-----------------------|--|-------|------|-------|----|---|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 8 | Paddock | Park hall pool | 8550 | 3280 | 5270 | | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut and small recreational area only cut in line with district schedule |
| 8 | Paddock | Woodend road play area Gillity Park | 13300 | 1843 | 11457 | 86 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathways and small recreational areas cut in line with district schedule |
| 8 | Paddock | Newquay road Play area | 5381 | 550 | 4831 | 89 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut, Play area and small recreational area |
| 8 | Paddock | Treyamon Rd | 1816 | 282 | 1534 | 84 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Highway boundary line only |
| 9 | St Matthews | Highgate Drive play area | 5245 | 559 | 4686 | 89 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area only - Possibly needs reviewing |
| 10 | Palfery | Walstead Road O/S | 8600 | 8600 | 0 | 0 | Flailed annually until planted in 2024/25 | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut inline with district schedule |
| 10 | Palfery | Laburnum Road | 5475 | 1625 | 3850 | 70 | Flail annually (October) | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut plus pathway inline with district schedule |
| 10 | Palfery | Bescot crescent play area | 3020 | 545 | 2475 | 81 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Play area only in line with district schedule |
| 11 | Pleck | Hough road | | | | | No cut | | No cut | Bund maintained 3 x annually only |
| 12 | Birchills and Leamore | Sydenham playing fields Green lane o/s (birchills) | 15400 | 6750 | 8650 | 56 | Flail annually (October) | | Monthly | Cricket pitch, Boundary and pathways cut in line with district schedule |
| 12 | Birchills and Leamore | Odell road o/s | 26150 | 1560 | 24590 | 94 | Flail collect annually (October) | Potential for Wildflower meadow | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathway only in line with district schedule |
| 12 | Birchills and Leamore | Green lane o/s (leamore) | 14320 | 900 | 13420 | 93 | Flail annually (October) | Hedgerow planting with potential for meadow and tree planting 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary lines, small recreational area and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |

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| 12 | Birchills and Leamore | Croft street/ Penkridge close | 1423 | 1168 | 255 | 18 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Play area and recreational area in line with district schedule |
| 13 | Blakenhall | Essex street / Coalpool lane Walkers bequest | 10000 | 4848 | 5152 | 51 | Flail collect annually (October) | 1555m2 of tree planting planned for 2024/25, reason for collect is to reduce any ASB with long grass left on site | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area, recreational area, Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 13 | Blakenhall | Leckie wildlife/ Proffitt street open space | 5800 | 980 | 4820 | 83 | Pathways only | | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 14 | Bloxwich East | Mallory crescent Livingstone road | 15000 | 6675 | 8325 | 55 | Flail annually (October) | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area, recreationall and Boundary cut inline with district schedule |
| 14 | Bloxwich East | Ashbourne road open space | 7210 | 5410 | 1800 | 25 | Flail collect annually (October) | Potential wildflower area to supplement tiny forest area | Monthly | Maintain access to community orchard inline with district schedule - Needs a Map |
| 14 | Bloxwich East | Drake road island | 3500 | 1417 | 2083 | 59 | Flail annually (October) | Area to be planted 2024/25 | Monthly | Recreational area and Boundary cut inline with district schedule |
| 14 | Bloxwich East | Ingram road open space | 1790 | 1240 | 550 | 30 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Recreational and boundary cut in line with district schedule |
| 14 | Bloxwich East | Church street open space | 1700 | 695 | 1005 | 59 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Pathways, boundary and recreational area in line with district schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Glastonbury o/s | 11198 | 3468 | 7730 | 69 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2023/24 - fail cut what isnt planted | Monthly | Pathways and recreational area cut in line with District schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Mossley youth club amenity greenspace Sneyd Lane open space | 25700 | 8416 | 17284 | 67 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2023/24 - flail cut what isnt planted | Monthly | Recreational, Muga and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |

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|----|------------------|------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|----|---|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Abbey square | 3050 | 1990 | 1060 | 34 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area and Boundary lines cut in line with District schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Sneyd Hall Road o/s | 6610 | 4710 | 1900 | 29 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area, Boundary lines and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Isacc Walton pool - Newtown pool | 2440 | 710 | 1730 | 70 | Flail collect annually (October) | Potential for meadow | Monthly 2 to 3 times annually | Pathway only in line with district schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Fisher road | 3600 | 1000 | 2600 | 72 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary lines, Pathways and small recreational area cut in line with District schedule |
| 15 | Bloxwich West | Turnberry o/s | 9972 | 5465 | 4507 | 45 | Flail collect annually (October) | To allow a balanced ecosystem to thrive and not allow plants to dominate the natural balance | 2 to 3 weeks | Small recreational areas and pathways cut inline with district schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Coppice farm o/s | 45900 | 19560 | 26340 | 57 | Flail annually (October), once tree planting has been completed flail collect approx 9000m2 | Tree planting area 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Muga Pathways and recreational area cut in line with District schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Littleton road/ Brereton road | 14750 | 6200 | 8550 | 42 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area and recreational area cut in line with District schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Poets estate field/ Tennyson field | 11,555 | 4,285 | 7,270 | 63 | Flail collect annually (October) | To prevent ruderal weed growth. Some tree planting planned | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary lines cut in line with District schedule |

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|----|------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------|----|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 16 | Willenhall North | Beacon p/a - Sandland Road | 5,760 | 2,670 | 3,090 | 53 | Flail collect annually (October) | To allow a balanced ecosystem to thrive and not allow plants to dominate the natural balance Tree planting planned for 2023/24 | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational and pathway areas cut in line with district schedule - May include some boundary work |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Greaves crescent | 3,460 | 2,555 | 905 | 26 | no cut | Tree planting already in place | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area only cut in line with district schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Miles Meadow Close | 2,570 | 2155 | 415 | 16 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting planned 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area, Boundary lines and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Delamere road Open space | 4300 | 2090 | 2210 | 51 | Flail annually (October) | Area to be planted 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Highway boundary line only |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Harlech rd open space | 1535 | 825 | 710 | 46 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Recreational, boundary and play area only in line with district schedule |
| 16 | Willenhall North | Buckingham drive open space | 408 | 120 | 288 | 70 | Flail 3 x each year | | Inline with district schedule | 2 x entrances cut in line with district schedule |
| 17 | Short heath | Pool hayes Rear of School part of O/S | 20000 | 4500 | 15500 | | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting area 2024/25 | Flail annually | Pathways cut in line with District schedule - Needs a map |
| 17 | Short heath | Oakridge drive off Bentley Linear WW | End of year cut only | | | | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | End of year cut only |
| 17 | Shorth Heath | Queens Lea roundabout | 1980 | 530 | 1450 | 73 | Flail annually (October) | | Inline with district schedule | Perimeter cut only n line with district schedule |
| 17 | Shorth Heath | Birch coppice Gardens | 1635 | 1300 | 335 | 20 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Recreational, boundary cut in line with district schedule |
| 18 | Willenhall South | Harthill street p/a Tyler Rd | 6,720 | 2,900 | 3,820 | 56 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting site 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area/ Muga and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |

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|----|-----------------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-----|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|---|
| 18 | Willenhall South | Lowry Close corridor and Noose crescent open space | 9500 | 2527 | 6973 | 73 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Pathways and boundary cut in line with district schedule |
| 18 | Willenhall North | Ullswater road | 10500 | 1200 | 9300 | 88 | Flail 3 x each year | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Pathway cut in line with district schedule |
| 18 | Willenhall South | Festival avenue x 2 | 6900 | 2700 | 4200 | 71 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting planned 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut and pathways and small recreational area inline with district schedule |
| 18 | Willenhall South | Broadwaters p/a | 6605 | 2390 | 4215 | 73 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting planned 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Play area cut and perimeter maintained in line with district schedule |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | Park lane/ Cook street o/s | 9400 | 1800 | 7600 | 83 | Flail annually (October) | Tree planting planned 2024/25 | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut and pathways inline with district schedule |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | Bush Park - Owen Street | 9320 | 1340 | 7980 | 87 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Boundary cut, pathways and recreational area inline with district schedule |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | Poplar Avenue - ABC Park | 9970 | 3610 | 6360 | 73 | Flail annually (October) | | 2 to 3 weeks | Pathways, play area and small recreational area inline with district schedule |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | Anson rd | 2070 | 660 | 1410 | 68 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Recreational, boundary cut in line with district schedule |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | Edward street open space | 500 | 0 | 500 | 100 | No cut | Potential for meadow and tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | No cut |
| 19 | Bentley and Darlaston North | St Lawrence way wide verge Darlaston | 2200 | 818 | 1382 | 62 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Pathway and small recreational spaces in line with district schedule |
| 20 | Darlaston South | Lower Bradley Playing fields / Great bridge rd | 37000 | 25600 | 11400 | 38% | Flail annually (October) | Potential tree planting area | 2 to 3 weeks | Football pitches maintained as per agreement |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|--|-------|-------|-------|----|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 20 | Darlaston South | Curtain drive p/a - Queen Street Amenity space | 9,482 | 3,140 | 6,342 | 66 | Flail collect annually (October) | Potential for some wildflower, or sow with yellow rattle to reduce dominance of grasses and reduce amount of grass growth | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area, Play area and Pathways cut in line with District schedule - May include in some boundary work |
| 20 | Darlaston South | Dangerfield lane open space - Pinfold Street | 5,415 | 3,315 | 2,100 | 39 | Flail collect annually (October) | s106 funded meadow and tree planting planned for the site | 2 to 3 weeks | Recreational area, Boundary lines and Pathways cut in line with District schedule |
| 20 | Darlaston South | Kendrick place | 3950 | 2000 | 1950 | 49 | | Tree planting 2024/25 | Inline with district schedule | Recreational only in line with district schedule |

27 February 2024

Fly Tipping Enforcement and Activity report

Ward(s): All

Portfolios: Resilient Communities

1. Aim

Walsall Council has statutory responsibilities under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to ensure that the appropriate collection and disposal of waste generated or deposited in its area is undertaken. The illegal depositing of waste on land or 'fly tipping' as it is more commonly known, is dealt with primarily by the place and environment operations team who collect and dispose of the waste and the community protection team, who take enforcement action against those carrying out the illegal depositing or storage of waste. The Environment Agency also have certain responsibilities around large-scale fly tips, illegal waste treatment or storage centres and tackling organised crime groups involved in the waste industry. Dealing with fly tipping is a priority for the administration and they have given their full support to tackling the issue moving forward.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Economy & Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the action being taken by the council and its partners to tackling fly tipping and other waste related issues in the borough.

3. Report detail – know

- 3.1 Fly tipping is an offence regardless of whose land it is deposited on and therefore close cooperation between council services and partners is needed to ensure.
- Fly tipping on council land is cleared quickly and efficiently, preserving evidence of who has tipped it wherever possible.
 - Council assets such as CCTV are deployed in the most efficient way and in the highest priority areas.
 - Fly tipping on private land is referred quickly and efficiently to enforcement officers who will then notify the landowner that clearance is needed. Where landowners delay or refuse to remove the waste the enforcement staff take appropriate enforcement action to require its removal. They also attempt wherever possible to preserve evidence of who may have tipped to try and secure a conviction.
- 3.2 Whilst each service has its specific role to play in dealing with incidents of fly tipping, the majority of reports tend to be filtered through the contact centre to ensure the complaints are sent to the correct team in a timely fashion.

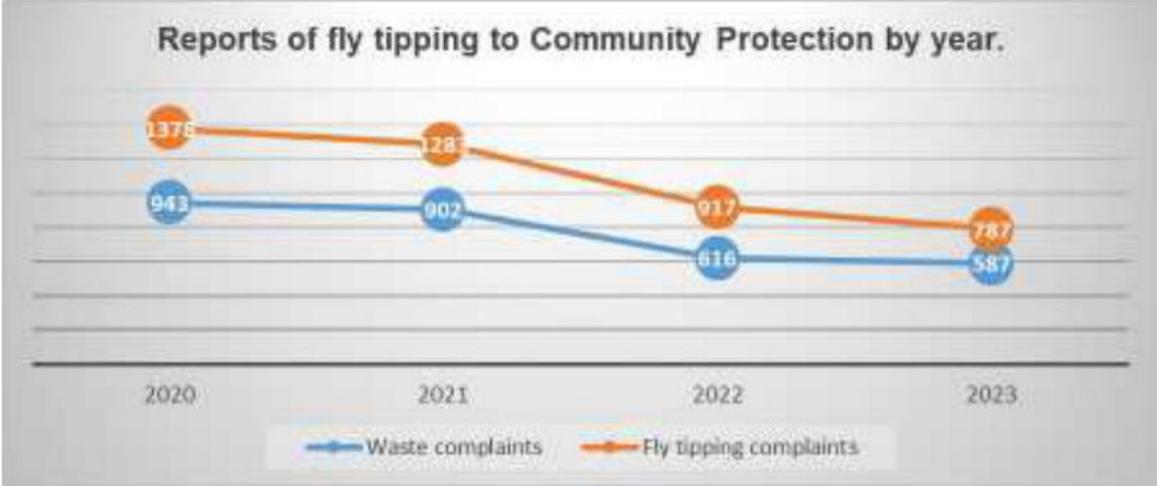
3.3 Community protection receive details of waste accumulations on all land within the borough, assess the size, severity and risk posed by the fly tipped materials and liaise or enforce against landowners and those responsible for tipping the waste to ensure as far as reasonably practical the waste is removed. The staff create letters, fixed penalty notices, statutory enforcement notices and prosecution files and liaise with legal services to ensure cases are brought before the court successfully. Waste enforcement accounts for around 30% of community protections workload.

3.4 The operations team aim to remove fly tipping within five working days of receiving the report. The report can be made via an online form at the following link <https://myaccount.walsall.gov.uk/flytip/> or by contacting the council at flytipping@walsall.gov.uk or via the 01922 653355 phone number.

3.5 The community safety team contribute through:

- the locality tasking officer who helps bring partners together to tackle issues which are having a detrimental effect on communities. There have been several occasions where this officer has helped coordinate fly tipping in hot spot fly tipping locations such as Dalkeith Street, Miner Street and current targets including Bradford Lane and Stafford Street.
- the CCTV team who plays a significant role in identifying fly tips and providing footage of vehicles and individuals involved in incidents. The service primarily uses overt lighting column mounted cameras however there are smaller more discreet covert cameras available which can be deployed for example in laybys. The deployment of these is a little harder as they need to be fitted at unsocial hours and 'camouflaged' as many have been stolen and damaged.

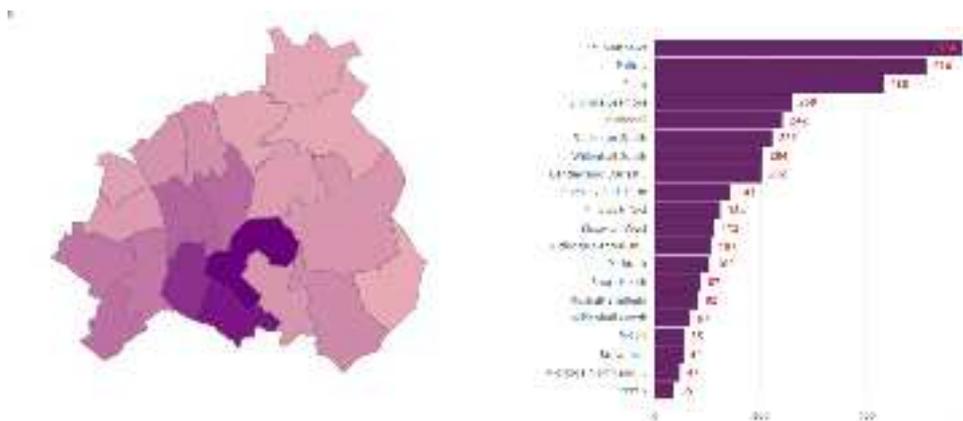
3.6 The graph below shows overall a reduction in the number of reports received by community protection over a four-year period. Waste complaints relate to waste accumulated in the curtilage of domestic or commercial properties. The emphasis in this scenario is on removal of health hazards and civil recovery of debt if the council carries out work in default of a statutory notice.



3.7 The operations team have significantly more reports directed to them regarding fly tipping, side waste and other accumulations on council property. Their figures from 2023 show that the new year period and summer period see peaks in demand but overall, the levels are consistent for most of the year.



3.8 A heat map of the borough shows where the greatest issues exist with regard to fly tipping in terms of frequency of tips. This may be attributable to much of the high density 'old fashioned' terraced streets of the south and southwest where there are also high levels of deprivation, perhaps a lack of local pride in some instances and lack of capacity to deal with the amount of waste generated by properties with high occupation. Initiatives carried out in some of these areas showed a dependency on the council to clear waste and that changing this attitude can be very difficult.



Environmental crime scene initiative

3.9 The environmental crime scene Initiative is a significant piece of work which started in Palfrey where short-term funding was received to kick start the project but has had good success and therefore been rolled out to other local areas. When an incident of fly tipping is reported, the operations team visit the site, secure the waste with 'crime scene' tape, place anti-fly tipping posts and pavement stencils around the accumulation. This highlights to local persons that fly tipping is a crime and not to be tolerated. It has been particularly satisfying when fly tips have been removed by the perpetrator negating the need for the council to remove and dispose of the waste. Walsall Housing Group have also started taking this approach with the fly tip showing a unified approach. A good description of the work can be found at this [link](#).

3.10 This initiative also made a major contribution to a piece of locality tasking work carried out in June 2023, when staff from community protection, community

safety, operations, West Midlands Police, housing standards, Accord Housing, NASHDOM and Walsall Connected collaborated on a multi-agency day on Dalkeith Street and Miner Street. The aims of the day were to connect with residents, provide education on disposing of waste safely, share information on legal housing standards and support residents to become digitally connected.



- 3.11 The community were happy to support the initiative in order to keep their streets clean and locate the offenders. On the day fourteen warnings were issued by the community protection team, with only four requiring follow up action. Thirteen environmental crime scenes were set up by the clean and green team, 90% of which were removed by the offenders. Also, four households applied for bigger bins due to having larger families and being unaware of this option previously.
- 3.12 Community protection staff also seized a vehicle from Dalkeith Street which had been involved in fly tipping locally. The owners came forward to claim the vehicle and were issued with fixed penalty notices the press coverage is at the link below.
<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/newsroom/walsall-council-officials-seize-another-fly-tipping-vehicle>
- 3.13 All professionals agreed that letters issued to residents and landlords in the weeks leading up to the day, meant that both streets were already in an improved state. The removal of clothing banks which attracted fly-tipping and boarding of the area on Dalkeith Street also contributed to the outcomes. Dalkeith has since maintained a good level of cleanliness with Miner Street requiring more ongoing work.

Side waste and contamination

- 3.14 In Walsall Borough residents are currently allocated three bins. Each household is issued: A 140ltr grey general waste, 240ltr green recycling bin and a 240ltr brown garden waste bin.
- 3.15 The environmental crime scene team work closely with community protection in identifying those households where contaminated waste bins may be causing an excess to the waste being presented for collection. Where households have an excess waste issue the residents will put their black bags/waste next to the household bin, therefore causing side waste issue.

- 3.16 The teams work together by speaking with residents and explaining to them the use of the bins and how to manage their waste more effectively to ensure that there is not an excess for collection. In some cases, the team will assist the householder to apply for a larger bin capacity which they are eligible for but may not have realised this. Please see the link for details around eligibility for residents requiring a larger waste capacity.

<https://myaccount.walsall.gov.uk/bigger-bin/>.

Enforcement

- 3.17 The leader, portfolio holders, and cabinet wish to see a strong line taken against those who fly tip and cost taxpayers and the council significant amounts of money which could be better spent elsewhere. To this end they pledged to invest in five new staff within community protection to be used to patrol hot spot locations around the borough and target environmental crime and anti-social behaviour.
- 3.18 Whilst enforcement on its own cannot solve the problem of fly tipping it is a significant tool to show residents and businesses that there are real consequences for fly tipping.

Since January 2023 the following enforcement actions have taken place:

- 1 car seized for fly tipping offences (Dalkeith Street – owners fined)
- 2 commercial vehicles previously seized were not claimed and were therefore crushed as an example of zero tolerance to fly tipping. The link to the press coverage is here.
- £500 reward offered to anyone who could locate and identify a vehicle used for large scale tipping in Willenhall.
- 73 legal notices served on property owners requiring them to remove waste from their land. The rate of compliance with works required in notices is around 70%
- 22 fixed penalty notices (£400) served on individuals for fly tipping waste in the borough following images being captured on CCTV. The payment rate for FPNs is 95%.
- 609 litter fixed penalty notices (£150) served on individuals by the CCTV team. The payment rate for FPNs is 68%.
- 12 litter prosecutions have been brought before the court, seven have been successfully concluded and 5 are awaiting a court hearing. The seven successful cases resulted in fines of £6357.78 which is around £900 per offender.
- 5 fly tipping prosecutions concluded:
 - 22 February 2023 Mr Michael Evans was prosecuted for fly-tipping and was issued with fines and costs of £455.80 and was made subject to a conditional discharge for 6 months.
 - 7 June 2023 James Lashley was prosecuted for fly-tipping and was issued with fines and costs of £1097.30.
 - 9 August 2023 Saifullah Khan of West Bromwich was prosecuted for fly-tipping and was issued with fines and costs of £2821.63.
 - 25 October 2023, Mohammed Khan was prosecuted for fly-tipping and was issued with fines and costs of £928.

- 14 February 2024 Robert Andruskiewicz was prosecuted for fly tipping a fridge in Darlaston and received a Community Order for 12 months:
 - 100 hours of unpaid work
 - Disqualified from driving for a period of 6 months
 - Fine of £100
 - VSC £95
 - COSTS £899 to Walsall Council

3.19 Some of the challenges that staff have encountered and can hamper or delay enforcement activity include:

- No witness to the fly tipping, no evidence at the scene and no CCTV nearby.
- Vehicles on false plates.
- Vehicles with no registered keeper.
- Incidents where the alleged offender did not live at the address given.
- Incidents where no one was able to identify the person involved.

CCTV

3.20 The CCTV team manage the majority of the councils CCTV cameras particularly with regard to the prevention and detection of crime, disorder and public safety.

- There are presently 104 cameras deployed in fixed high priority locations around the borough and which are not available to be redeployed.
- There are 112 cameras which are available for redeployment around the borough to tackle ASB, fly tipping and littering.

3.21 Requests to install cameras are sent to the CCTV team usually via Walsall Police or the Community Safety and Enforcement management team. The deployments are intelligence and evidence led for example where asb/disorder is escalating, is intensifying or where there is information which suggests incidents are likely to occur in the near future.

3.22 The CCTV cameras are overt i.e. they are in plain view and not 'hidden' from the public and/or signage is erected to notify the public that CCTV is in operation in the area. Where directed surveillance is required for example the use of covert cameras to record a specified individual(s) then judicial approval would be required through the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and this is a much rarer process which the service has not needed to undertake for a couple of years.

3.23 The administration has committed £200,000 to invest into the councils CCTV resource. An audit of the council's capability has been undertaken recently and has identified what additional cameras are needed and where they can be deployed to best effect across all of Walsall. Elected members may request information as to the locations of cameras in their ward by contacting the CCTV team directly or request deployment of a camera to a hot spot location through the neighbourhood police team or by liaising with community protection on the evidence to support the request.

3.24 Conversations are underway to agree a process by which evidence from CCTV owned and managed by WHG can be secured and supplied to the council so that fly tippers and litterers caught by their cameras can also be brought to justice.

4. Financial information

- 4.1 The annual direct cost of illegally deposited waste from Walsall streets is around £500,000. There are other indirect costs associated with waste clearance and enforcement too, including the pro rata time of contact centre staff, management within relevant teams, environmental operatives, enforcement staff, solicitors and finance officers.
- 4.2 Income derived from issuing FPNs should be invested back into those services tackling environmental crimes. In the final quarter of 2023/4 and into 2024/5 work with finance will take place to identify income 'targets' and how receipts from fixed penalties can be used positively. The environmental crime scene project is one such example of a project that needs continuing investment if it is to continue.

5. Reducing Inequalities

- 5.1 Fly tipping can affect deprived areas more than more affluent areas and further exacerbate inequalities in communities. Affluent areas particularly near the countryside do tend to see a lot of fly tipping particularly large tips from commercial vehicles as there is more cover for them to operate in privacy.
- 5.2 Language barriers for residents do cause issues as residents are unable to communicate effectively with staff or understand what they are required to do. A way to offer effective communication for all would need to be looked at via the website, leaflets or possibly QR codes to help residents access the information that is relevant to them.

6. Decide

- 6.1 Key strategies used to tackle fly tipping in the borough are set out below:
- **Enhanced Enforcement:** The council work closely with local law enforcement agencies, waste management teams, and community protection officers to strengthen enforcement against environmental crimes. This will include increased surveillance, intelligence-gathering, and prosecution of offenders.
 - **Community Engagement:** recognising the importance of community involvement in combating environmental crimes. The project will aim to raise public awareness through various campaigns, workshops, and educational programs. Additionally, the council will encourage residents to report suspicious activities and provide them with avenues to safely dispose of waste.
 - **Prompt Response and Cleanup:** prioritising swift response and cleanup of environmental crime scenes to minimize their negative impact. This will involve coordinated efforts between waste management teams, enforcement agencies, and relevant authorities to ensure that affected areas are promptly restored.
- 6.2 Challenges and issues to be addressed in the next 12 months include:

- A decision for cabinet on the financial level to set fixed penalty notices at following changes to legislation raising the upper limits of littering from £150 to £500 and fly tipping from £400 to £1000.
- How to effectively deal with waste tipped on unregistered land.
- A formalised and agreed process for waste left by residents at the side of their bins for collection.
- Whether to provide larger bins in certain areas of the borough.
- Whether delegating social landlords such as WHG to issue fixed penalty notices on tenants for litter or fly tipping could be arranged and effectively managed. The council would remain holding the 'risk' and cost in terms of prosecution/enforcement if the FPN is not paid.
- Review of CCTV, other cameras and partner cameras to ensure they are being used to best effect.
- Positive use of income generated by FPNs to carry out projects.

6.3 The committee may wish to comment on which areas should be prioritised, other areas of work, or suggest a different approach to how the authority deals with fly tipping. As described the current balanced response taken to fly tipping includes localised initiatives in hot spot areas, deployment of CCTV to best effect and appropriate use of enforcement powers to punish non-compliance and deliberate offences. The lessons learned through this balanced approach during 2023 and the connections made with partners such as WHG and other social landlords, community groups and neighbourhood police will lead to even better outcomes in the year ahead if this area of work continues to be prioritised by the authority.

7. Respond

Any recommendations made by the committee will be fed back to the fly tipping working group who organise the interventions around this subject. Feedback on the success of the operations conducted during 2024 can be fed back to committee at a future date to be determined if that is required.

8. Review

At an operational level there is a partnership working group who look at fly tipping issues specifically but also a North Walsall and a South Walsall Locality Tasking meeting where partners come together to discuss issues of concern. Fly tipping nuisance can feature on their agenda for liaison or referral to the fly tipping working group as appropriate.

Background papers

None

Author

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 ✉ david.elrington@walsall.gov.uk

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2023/24

Committee responsible for all aspects and general services related to the economy and environment including:

Responsibility of scrutiny of flood risk management functions which may affect the Local Authority's area as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010

And the scrutinising of performance in relation to the relevant priority in the Council Plan: Enable greater local opportunities for all people, communities and businesses.

| Agenda Items | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|
| Theme | 6 July 2023 | 12 September 2023 | 19 October 2023 | 23 November 2023 | 16 January 2024 | 27 February 2024 | 11 April 2024 |
| Economy | | Derelict Properties Taskforce | Regeneration focus – Towns Funds projects, Town Centre Masterplan, Willenhall Masterplan, M6 J10 | Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Train Stations | Heritage Strategy with reference to Highgate Brewery | | |
| Environment | | Streetworks permit scheme | | Tree Planting Strategy | Climate change Off-road biking | Litter picking strategy and volunteers Enforcement | Partnership working with West Midlands Police – traffic speed enforcement |
| Cross cutting both Economy and Environment | Outturn 2022/23 | | | Quarter 2 Monitoring Budget Setting | | Grass cutting schedule and mapping of council assets | UNESCO Geopark Update |

Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Area of Focus – 2023/24

*Quarter 1 and Quarter 3 Financial reports will be circulated via e-mail to Members of the Committee and will not form part of the Committee's Agenda unless specially requested by the Committee.

Items to be scheduled in work programme:

1. Public Toilets Pilot Update;
2. Private session discussion on derelict properties taskforce;
3. Cycling Infrastructure Programme;
4. Government Recycling Strategy.



FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS

**Council House,
Lichfield Street,
Walsall, WS1 1TW**
www.walsall.gov.uk

5 FEBRUARY 2024

FORWARD PLAN

The forward plan sets out decisions that are termed as “key decisions” at least 28 calendar days before they are due to be taken by the Executive (Cabinet). Also included on the plan are other decisions to be taken by the Cabinet (“non-key decisions”). Preparation of the forward plan helps the Council to programme its work. The purpose of the forward plan is to give plenty of notice and an opportunity for consultation on the issues to be discussed. The plan is updated each month with the period of the plan being rolled forward by one month and republished. Copies of the plan can be obtained from Democratic Services, Walsall MBC, Council House, Walsall, WS1 1TW craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk and can also be accessed from the Council’s website at www.walsall.gov.uk. The Cabinet is allowed to make urgent decisions which do not appear in the forward plan, however, a notice will be included on the agenda for the relevant Cabinet meeting which explains the reasons why.

Please note that the decision dates are indicative and are subject to change. Please contact the above addressee if you wish to check the date for a particular item.

The Cabinet agenda and reports are available for inspection by the public 7 days prior to the meeting of the Cabinet on the Council’s website. Background papers are listed on each report submitted to the Cabinet and members of the public are entitled to see these documents unless they are confidential. The report also contains the name and telephone number of a contact officer. These details can also be found in the forward plan.

Meetings of the Cabinet are open to the public. Occasionally there are items included on the agenda which are confidential and for those items the public will be asked to leave the meeting. The forward plan will show where this is intended and the reason why the reports are confidential. Enquiries regarding these reasons should be directed to Democratic Services (craig.goodall@walsall.gov.uk).

“Key decisions” are those decisions which have a significant effect within the community or which involve considerable expenditure or savings. With regard to key decisions the Council’s Constitution states:

- (1) A key decision is:
 - (i) any decision in relation to an executive function which results in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant, having regard to the Council’s budget for the service or function to which the decision relates or
 - (ii) any decision that is likely to have significant impact on two or more wards within the borough.
- (2) The threshold for “significant” expenditure/savings is £500,000.
- (3) A decision taker may only make a key decision in accordance with the requirements of the Executive Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution.

**FORWARD PLAN OF KEY DECISIONS
MARCH 2024 TO JUNE 2024 (05.02.2024)**

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Reference No./ Date first entered in Plan | Decision to be considered (to provide adequate details for those both in and outside the Council) | Decision maker | Background papers (if any) and Contact Officer | Main consultees | Contact Member (All Members can be written to at Civic Centre, Walsall) | Date item to be considered |
| 50/23 (2.10.23) | Corporate Financial Performance 2023/24: To report the financial position based on 9 months to December 2023. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 7 February 2024 |
| 51/23 (2.10.23) | Corporate Budget Plan 2024/25 – 2027/28, incorporating the Capital Strategy and the Treasury Management and investment Strategy 2024/25: To recommend the final budget and council tax for approval by Council. | Cabinet Council Key Decision | Vicky Buckley Vicky.Buckley@walsall.gov.uk | Council taxpayers, business rate payers, voluntary and community organisations. Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 7 February 2024 (Council: 22 February 2024) |
| 52/23 (2.10.23) | Council Plan 2022/25 – Q2 23/24: To note the Quarter 2 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Elizabeth Connolly Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 7 February 2024 |
| 1/24 (8.1.24) | Walsall’s Regeneration Pipeline: To award a contract for the strategic partner framework. | Cabinet Key Decision | Joel Maybury Joel.Maybury@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 7 February 2024 |

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| <p>3/24 (8.1.24)</p> | <p>Investment and Leasing Proposals for Council Owned Community Buildings:</p> <p>To support the continued delivery of services by the voluntary and community sector, through the signing of lease agreements and the underwriting of capital investment gaps for those occupying Council-owned properties. <i>This is an updated item previously included in the forward plan as entry 60/23.</i></p> | <p>Cabinet Key Decision</p> | <p>Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk</p> | <p>Internal Services</p> | <p>Cllr Andrew</p> | <p>7 February 2024</p> |
| <p>4/24 (8.1.24)</p> | <p>Walsall Balloon and Lantern Release Policy:</p> <p>Decision to be made on adopting the policy which will treat any 'releases' as litter.</p> | <p>Cabinet Non-key Decision</p> | <p>Jaki Brunton-Douglas Jaki.Brunton-Douglas@walsall.gov.uk</p> | <p>Internal Services</p> | <p>Cllr Murphy</p> | <p>7 February 2024</p> |
| <p>5/24 (8.1.24)</p> | <p>Fee Uplift Approach for Adult Social Care:</p> <p>To outline a revised approach to fee setting, fee uplifts and the links to quality across Adult Social Care services.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p> | <p>Cabinet Key Decision</p> | <p>Andrew Osborn Andrew.Osborn@walsall.gov.uk</p> | <p>Internal Services</p> | <p>Cllr Pedley</p> | <p>7 February 2024</p> |

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| 53/23 (2.10.23) | <p>Determination of the Scheme for coordinated admissions, and the Admission Arrangements for Community and Voluntary Controlled Primary Schools for the 2025/26 academic year:</p> <p>To determine the scheme of admissions and admission arrangements for community and voluntary-controlled primary schools for 2025-26.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services, Neighbouring Local Authorities, Schools, Faith Groups | Cllr M. Statham | 7 February 2024 |
| 7/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Darlaston Long Term Plan for Towns:</p> <p>To authorise the Executive Director for Resources and Transformation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to act as Accountable Body for the Darlaston Long Term Plan for Towns.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Amelia Brachmanski Amelia.Brachmanski@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |
| 8/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Fixed Penalty Notices:</p> <p>Cabinet to consider law changes allowing the increase of penalties for litter, fly tipping and duty of care and approving the new penalty limits in Walsall.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | David Elrington David.Elrington@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Perry | 20 March 2024 |
| 9/24 (5.2.24) | <p>West Midlands Local Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2024/25:</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Matt Crowton Matt.Crowton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |

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|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------|---------------|
| | To approve the West Midlands Local Transport Plan Settlement and Transport Capital Programme 2024/25. | | | | | |
| 2/24 (8.1.24) | <p>Acquisition of a Strategic Town Centre Development Site:</p> <p>To approve the acquisition of a strategic town centre development site.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |
| 15/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Acquisition of a Town Centre Property for Strategic Regeneration:</p> <p>To approve the acquisition of a town centre property for strategic development.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Nick Ford Nick.Ford@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |
| 11/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Town Deal & Future High Street Fund Updates:</p> <p>To approve delegations to enable continued delivery of the external grant funded programmes/ projects in line with the agreed governance and assurance framework.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Simon Tranter Simon.Tranter@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |
| 14/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Healthy Levelling Up Partnership:</p> <p>To agree to the Healthy LUP proposal and agree delegations to bring forward</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | Simon Tranter Simon.Tranter@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew | 20 March 2024 |

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| | proposals for funding under the scheme. | | | | | |
| 65/23 (4.12.23) | <p>Materials Contract Awards:</p> <p>To award off-take and processing contracts for multiple recyclable materials.</p> <p><i>This will be a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i></p> | Cabinet Key Decision | <p>Katie Moreton</p> <p>Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Alan Bowley</p> <p>Alan.Bowley@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Internal Services | Cllr Murphy | 20 March 2024 |
| 12/24 (5.2.24) | <p>Walsall Safer Streets – Palfrey Big Local and General Update:</p> <p>To cover the work of Palfrey Big Local, their resident led approach and the outcomes they have achieved.</p> | Cabinet Non-key Decision | <p>Paul Gordon</p> <p>Paul.Gordon@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Internal Services Palfrey Big Local | Cllr Perry | 20 March 2024 |
| 6/24 (8.1.24) | <p>Alternative Provision Contract:</p> <p>To approve the award contracts for the provision of Alternative Education.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | <p>Laura Wood</p> <p>Laura.Wood@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 20 March 2024 |
| 58/23 (6.11.23) | <p>High Needs Funding Formula 2024/25:</p> <p>To approve changes to the High Needs Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used for the allocation of Dedicated Schools Grant – High Needs Block to schools in Walsall for the 2024/25 financial year.</p> | Cabinet Key Decision | <p>Richard Walley</p> <p>Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Schools Forum, Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 20 March 2024 |

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|--------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| 59/23 (6.11.23) | Early Years Funding Formula 2024/25: To Cabinet approve the Early Years Funding Formula, as agreed by Schools Forum, to be used as the allocation of funding to early years providers in Walsall. | Cabinet Key Decision | Richard Walley Richard.Walley@walsall.gov.uk | Schools Forum, Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 20 March 2024 |
| 46/23 (4.9.23) | SEN Place Requirement: To approve finance for additional special educational needs school places. | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr M. Statham | 20 March 2024 |
| 14/23 (6.2.23) | Growth Funding for Schools: To enable the Local Authority to fulfil its duty to secure sufficient primary and secondary school places, through the adoption of a policy for the application of revenue funding for school growth. | Cabinet Key Decision | Alex Groom Alex.Groom@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services, Schools Forum | Cllr M. Statham | 20 March 2024 |
| 66/23 (4.12.23) | Waste Management Strategy Update - Fryers Road Household Waste Recycling Centre redevelopment (HWRC): That Cabinet approve the pre-tender budget for the redevelopment of a larger Fryers Road HWRC and agree to use the Pagabo framework (design and build stages) for the procurement of Fryers Road HWRC. | Cabinet Key Decision | Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk Stephen Johnson Stephen.Johnson@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Andrew Cllr Murphy | 17 April 2024 |

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|--------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 67/23 (4.12.23) | Council Plan 2022/25 – Q3 23/24: To note the Quarter 3 2023/24 (outturn) performance against the Markers of Success in the Council Plan 2022/25. | Cabinet Non-key Decision | Elizabeth Connolly Elizabeth.Connolly@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Bird | 17 April 2024 |
| 13/24 (5.2.24) | Multifunctional Devices leasing contract: To consider the award of a 5-year contract for the leasing of multifunctional devices (MFDs) and production print devices. <i>This will include a private session report containing commercially sensitive information.</i> | Cabinet Key Decision | Sharon Worrall Sharon.Worrall@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Ferguson | 17 April 2024 |
| 10/24 (5.2.24) | Surveillance and Access to Communications Data: To review the authority's performance as regards directed surveillance and to approve an updated policy for surveillance and the interception of communications data. | Cabinet Key Decision | David Elrington David.Elrington@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Perry | 17 April 2024 |
| 57/23 (6.11.23) | Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Climate Strategy: To approve the Walsall Net-Zero 2041 Strategy. | Cabinet Key Decision | Katie Moreton Kathryn.Moreton@walsall.gov.uk | Internal Services | Cllr Flint | July 2024 |

Black Country Executive Joint Committee Forward Plan of Key Decisions

Published up to May 2024

| Date Created | Key Decision | Contact Officer | Main consultee | Date of meeting |
|--------------|--|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Black Country Executive Joint Committee Governance | | | |
| 04/09/2023 | <p>Change Control and Delegated Authority</p> <p>Approval of BCJC Delegated Authority to the Single Accountable Body Section 151 Officer (SAB s151 officer) and approval of the revised Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (BCLEP) Assurance Framework Change Control and Delegated Authority delegations, as detailed in the attachment of the report (BCLEP Assurance Framework Appendix 23).</p> | <p>David Moore David.Moore@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Mark Lavender Mark.Lavender@walsall.gov.uk</p> | Walsall Council | 24/01/2024 |
| | Land and Property Investment Fund | | | |
| 04/12/2023 | <p>Dudley Brownfield Land Programme</p> <p>Approval of the withdrawal of the Dudley Brownfield Land Programme project (Dudley Council) from within the Land and Property Investment Fund Programme.</p> | <p>Helen Martin Helen.Martin@dudley.gov.uk</p> | Dudley Council | 24/01/2024 |

| Date Created | Key Decision | Contact Officer | Main consultee | Date of meeting |
|---------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 04/12/2023 | <p>Loxdale Residential Scheme</p> <p>Approval for the Accountable Body for the Land and Property Investment fund (Walsall Council) to proceed to enter into a Grant Agreement with Wolverhampton City Council to deliver the Land and Property Investment fund funded elements of the Loxdale Residential Scheme project with delivery to commence in the 2023/24 financial year.</p> | <p>Richard Lawrence Richard.Lawrence@wolverhampton.gov.uk</p> | <p>Wolverhampton City Council</p> | <p>24/01/2024</p> |
| 04/12/2023 | <p>Programme Management Costs</p> <p>Approval of the balance of Land and Property Investment Fund funds to be allocated to Accountable Body (Walsall Council) programme management costs, to cover additional due diligence and contracting costs associated with the replacement of a project.</p> | <p>David Moore David.Moore@walsall.gov.uk</p> <p>Mark Lavender Mark.Lavender@walsall.gov.uk</p> | <p>Walsall Council</p> | <p>24/01/2024</p> |



West Midlands Combined Authority

Forward Plan

Forthcoming key decisions

| Title of key decision: | Decision to be taken by and date: | Open or Exempt: | Portfolio Lead | Employee to contact: |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|
| <p>WMCA Financial Monitoring Report - March 2024 To update on the latest financial position</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Bob Sleigh Deputy Mayor | Beverly Sullivan, Sally Truman Financial Planning and Coordination Manager, Lead Financial Planning Accountant |
| <p>Investment Zone Gateway Ratification / Investment & Delivery Plan To consider updates on Gateway Ratification and the Investment & Delivery Plan.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation | Steve Bowyer Partnerships and Engagement Strategic Lead |
| <p>Investment Zone Finance & Funding Plan (including Business Rates Retention Memorandum of Understanding) To approve the Finance & Funding Plan and Business Rates Retention memorandum of understanding.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation | Carl Pearson Head of Major Funding |
| <p>Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding To consider the ratification of the Single Settlement Memorandum of Understanding.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Sharon Thompson Portfolio Lead for Levelling Up / Devolution | Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs |
| <p>Black Country Innovative Manufacturing Organisation To consider the latest BCIMO update.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Bob Sleigh Portfolio Lead for Finance | Linda Horne Executive Director of Finance & Business Hub |

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|--|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| <p>Skills Funding To agree delegations for the commissioning of skills funding.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | <p>Councillor George Duggins Portfolio Lead for Skills & Productivity</p> | <p>Dr. Fiona Aldridge Head of Insight & Intelligence</p> |
| <p>Penalty Fares for Midland Metro Following public consultation, to agree a new penalty fare amount and to consider moving to a proposed two-tier penalty structure, where the fee amount will reduce for early payment.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | <p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p> | <p>Chris Hopkinson Owner Representative - West Midlands Metro</p> |
| <p>Cycle Hire Scheme Update To endorse the additional funding requirements to operate the scheme to October 2025.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | <p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p> | <p>Andrew Thrupp Head of Operational Assets</p> |
| <p>Zero Emission Bus Regional Area (ZEBRA) Update To provide an update on the latest ZEBRA developments.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | <p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p> | <p>Pete Bond Director of Integrated Transport Services</p> |
| <p>Bus Service Improvement Plan Additional Funding Allocation To consider additional funding received in respect of BSIP.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | <p>Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport</p> | <p>Adam Lane, Jon Hayes Consultant SPM, Head of Bus</p> |
| <p>Request by Warwick District Council to become a Non-Constituent Authority of WMCA To consider the request submitted by Warwick District Council that it should be granted equivalent status as the non-constituent councils with the right to be represented on the WMCA Board and other boards.</p> | <p>WMCA Board 15 March 2024</p> | <p>Open</p> | | <p>Julia Cleary Head of Corporate Support & Governance</p> |

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|--|-----------------------------|------|---|--|
| <p>Arrangements for Mayoral Question Time with MPs To agree the arrangements for mayoral question time sessions with the region's MPs.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Andy Street Mayor of the West Midlands | Jonathan Gibson Head of Policy & Public Affairs |
| <p>Private Sector Representation To consider retaining existing private sector representation on WMCA boards until such time as the future Single Settlement governance structure is known.</p> | WMCA Board 15 March 2024 | Open | Councillor Stephen Simkins Portfolio Lead for Economy & Innovation | James Hughes Member Relationship Manager |
| <p>Bus Depot Strategy To consider a new Bus Station Strategy.</p> | WMCA Board 19 July 2024 | Open | Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport | Ian Shore Asset Delivery Manager |
| <p>Bus Options Report To consider options for the future delivery of the region's bus network.</p> | WMCA Board 19 July 2024 | Open | Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport | Steven Hayes Head of Network Transformation |
| <p>Key Route Network Review 2023/24 To approve the amended Key Route Network within the WMCA area.</p> | WMCA Board 19 July 2024 | Open | Councillor Mike Bird Portfolio Lead for Transport | Rachel Ing Corridor Manager |

The Forward Plan

This document sets out known 'key decisions' that will be taken by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) over the coming months.

Forthcoming key decisions are published online to meet the statutory 28 day notification rule for each meeting where a key decision will be taken. Where it has not been possible to meet the 28 day rule for publication of notice of a key decision or an intention to meet in private, the relevant notices will be published as required by legislation as soon as possible.

What is a key decision?

A 'key decision' means a decision of the Mayor, WMCA or officer which is likely:

- (a) to result in the WMCA incurring expenditure, making savings or generating income amounting to £1m or more; or
- (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the WMCA

The report relating to a decision, together with any other documents being considered, will be available five clear working days before the decision is to be taken (unless the documentation contains exempt information).

The forward plan also provides notice of when the WMCA may decide to exclude the press and public during consideration of a particular matter due to the potential for disclosure of confidential or exempt information. The grounds upon which local authorities can exclude the press and public are specified by law and details of the exempt categories are available on request from the Governance Services team (governance.services@wmca.org.uk).

Councillors or members of the public wishing to:

- make a representation about why a matter should be heard in public, or
- submit information to the decision-making body about an item in the forward plan, or
- request details of relevant documents, or
- seek advice about the WMCA's decision-making arrangements,

should contact the Governance Services team: governance.services@wmca.org.uk

Recommendation Tracker

| Committee Meeting Date | Agenda Item | Action/Recommendation | Officer responsible | Status | Target Completion Date | Notes |
|------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|---|
| 7 July 2022 | Response to petition: 'Pedestrian Crossing for Birmingham Road, Aldridge, enabling the safety of school children' | S106 funding schemes in Aldridge to be reviewed to see if any funding could be secured for the crossing in this way. | Katie Moreton | Completed | | The Development Monitoring Officer who starts on 3 October will provide improved resource to review this matter. Unlikely that previous S106 funds can be used as each S106 specifies what works the obligations are to cover as it has to be related specifically to the development proposed. |
| 20 October 2022 | Urgent Item: Bus Matters – Bus Network Update | Presentation and report be circulated to all Members of the Council. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Sent out by email 21/10/2022. |
| 24 November 2022 | Off-Road Bikes | The Committee recommends Cabinet to investigate the acquisition of a drone or drone service for community protection to use in conjunction with West Midlands Police. | Sian Lloyd/Simon Neilson | Completed | | Report discussed at Cabinet on 8 February. Further fuller details to be discussed at next Cabinet meeting on 22 March. |

Recommendation Tracker

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------|-----------|--|---|
| 2 February 2023 | Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations | Report to be considered at a future meeting of the Committee. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Discussed at the meeting of the Committee on April 13. |
| | Areas of Focus 22/23 | Report on public toilet provision to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Report on public toilets brought to meeting on 28 February. |
| 28 February 2023 | Area of Focus 22/23 | CCTV provision in housing estates be added to the list of items to be considered. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Added to areas of focus document. |
| 13 April 2023 | Willenhall, Darlaston and Aldridge Railway Stations | A further written update to be considered by the Committee. | West Midlands Rail Executive | Completed | | Added to areas of focus. |
| | Phoenix 10 | A further report to be considered by the Committee in due course following the site remediation phase. | Simon Tranter | Completed | | Added to areas of focus. |
| 12 September 2023 | Derelict Properties Taskforce | Discussions in relation to specific sites to be held at a future meeting in private session within six months. | Simon Tranter/David Moore | Completed | | Added to areas of focus – to be scheduled for a specific date. |
| | Areas of Focus | Request an invitation to the Scrutiny Overview Committee meeting in relation to the Walsall Local Borough Plan. | Sian Lloyd | Completed | | Invitation requested – at present this discussion is scheduled for February 2024. |
| 23 October 2023 | Regeneration Update | Request an update on the UNESCO Geopark and an update on Moorcroft Wood with the associated visitor centre at a future meeting of the Committee. | Liz Stuffins | Completed | | Item scheduled for February 2024. |

Recommendation Tracker

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|--|-----------------------|---|------------|------------|--|--|
| | | Clarification of the number of electric vehicles charging points in the town centre | Dave Brown | Completed | | Circulated to Members on 07 November 2023. |
| | | A copy of the Transport Scheme to be forwarded to Willenhall Councillors | Matt Powis | Completed. | | Circulated on 15 November 2023 |
| | | Highways England and SISK be invited to a special meeting of the Committee. | Matt Powis | Completed | | Briefing to be held on 15 January 2024. |
| | | <p>Committee recommends to Cabinet:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That, the Cabinet and Council Officers should be radical in changes to the Borough's Town Centre plans as our town centres have radically changed post pandemic. 2. In connection with (1) above, the Council look to increase transport links by moving bus services closer to Walsall Train Station and Park Street, Walsall. 3. That, the Council explore a clearer vision of future housing potential in our town centres in future plans and reports. | Matt Powis | Completed | | Circulated on 19 February 2024 |
| | Areas of Focus | Cycling Infrastructure Programme and Government Recycling Strategy be added to the areas of focus. | Matt Powis | Completed | | Added to Areas of Focus. |

Recommendation Tracker

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|------------------|---|---|----------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| 23 November 2023 | Draft Budget and Capital Programme | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost benefit analysis in respect of preventative measures with fly tipping compared to 2022. 2. Clarification on whether the Council could recover costs associated with fly tipping from a Magistrates' or Small Claims Court. | Dave Elrington | In progress | February 2024 | |
| 16 January 2024 | Heritage Strategy | A Member requested a briefing paper on the future of Darlaston Recreation Centre. | TBC | In progress | TBC | |
| | Off-Road Vehicles | Conviction data relating to off-road vehicles to be circulated to the Committee. | TBC | In progress | TBC | |
| | | The Council had prepared literature to raise awareness of the dangers of off-road vehicles including the legal ramifications of using such vehicles. In this respect, it was agreed that an example of the literature would be circulated to the Committee in writing. | TBC | In progress | TBC | |
| | | A Member sought clarification on the probation service involvement with litter picking. | TBC | In progress | TBC | |